

REMARKS

Claims 28 and 30-32 are presented for consideration, with Claim 28 independent.

Independent Claim 28 has been amended to further distinguish Applicants' invention from the cited art. In addition, Claim 32 has been added to provide an additional scope of protection. Claim 29 has been cancelled.

Claims 28 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by the Japanese '258 citation (Japan '258). In addition, Claims 28-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Japan '258 in view of Vrijssen '673.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 28 of Applicants' invention relates to a method of manufacturing an image display apparatus having display devices and an airtight container containing the display devices, comprising a step of bonding a substrate and a frame forming the airtight container using a seal bonding material containing a low melting point metal. The bonding step includes a step of contacting the substrate with the frame to form a contacting region between the substrate and the frame, and a step of placing the seal bonding material, along the contacting portion, on a surface of the substrate or the frame except for opposing surfaces of the substrate and the frame, under a state of contacting the substrate with the frame. The bonding step also includes a step of heating successively the seal bonding material placed along the contacting region, such that the seal bonding material is melted, and a part of the seal bonding material melted is introduced between opposing surfaces of the substrate and the frame. As claimed, the seal bonding between

the substrate and the frame is performed by the seal bonding material introduced between the opposing surfaces of the substrate and the frame, and by the seal bonding material placed on the surface of the substrate or the frame except for the opposing surfaces of the substrate and the frame.

Support for the amendments to Claim 28 can be found, for example, on page 16, line 4, *et. seq.*, of the specification. In accordance with Applicants' invention, a relatively easy yet highly effective method of bonding an airtight container is provided.

Japan '258 relates to a display device that includes a vacuum case for a display device. With reference to Figure 2, a back substrate 2 and side attachment wall 3 are formed to a front substrate 1. A low melt point metallic material 15 is formed in a concave groove 18 in the front substrate for receiving the side attachment wall 3.

The Office Action asserts that the JP '258 translation discloses, in paragraph 50, "a step of flowing low melting point metal out of concave 18 outside at the time of sealing." It is respectfully submitted, however, that such a translation is incorrect, and paragraph 50 of Japan '258 as accurately translated reads as follows:

According to the embodiment, at the seal bonding, the low melting point metal material 15 melted or softened remains in a groove 18 of a front substrate 1, and held at a predetermined position without being flowed out into outside from the groove 18. Accordingly, the seal bonding by the low melting point metal material 15 would be made certain.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the melted material does not flow outside of the groove 18 in Japan '258, in contrast to the assertion in the Office Action.

Regardless of how Japan '258 is read, with respect to Claim 1 of Applicants' invention, this reference fails to teach or suggest, among other bonding steps, placing the seal bonding material, along a contacting region, on a surface of the substrate or the frame except for opposing surfaces of the substrate and the frame, under a state of contacting the substrate with the frame, and a step of heating successively the seal bonding material placed along the contacting region, such that the seal bonding material is melted and part of which is introduced between opposing surfaces of the substrate and the frame. JP '258 also fails to provide seal bonding between the substrate and the frame by the seal bonding material introduced between the opposing surfaces of the substrate and the frame, and by a seal bonding material placed on the surface of the substrate or the frame except for the opposing surface of the substrate and the frame.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

The secondary citation to Vrijssen relates to an image display apparatus and is relied upon for its teaching of penetrating a low melting point substance between a substrate and a member by heating the low melting point substance. Vrijssen fails, however, to compensate for the deficiencies in JP '258 as discussed above. Even assuming, *arguendo*, the art could have been combined in the manner proposed in the Office Action, such a combination still fails to

teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claim 28 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 30-32 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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